

AB roots, wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre, and further comprising a second cylindrical plug of a second growing medium surrounding the outer and lower surfaces of said first cylindrical plug.

4.(Once Amended) The tree seedling plug of claim 3 wherein said first growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

7. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

Sub 1
8. (Once Amended) A method of forming a seedling plug comprising:
i) forming a first generally cylindrical plug of a first growing medium wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre, by
a) filling a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;
b) planting a tree seed in said hollow cell;
c) germinating said seed into a seedling and nurturing said seedling to provide root development;
d) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said first cylindrical plug;
ii) transplanting said first generally cylindrical plug into a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;
iii) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said seedling plug.

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9. (Once Amended) A method of forming a seedling plug comprising:
i) forming a first generally cylindrical plug of a first growing medium wherein said first growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre, by
a) filling a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing

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- medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre;
- b) planting a tree seed in said hollow cell;
- c) germinating said seed into a seedling and nurturing said seedling to provide root development;
- d) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said first cylindrical plug;
- ii) transplanting said first generally cylindrical plug into a hollow cell with a growing medium wherein said growing medium comprises a second growing medium;
- iii) after sufficient root development of said seedling has occurred, ejecting said seedling and growing medium to form said seedling plug.

12. (Once Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein said second growing medium a loose growing soil mixture comprising peat moss and sawdust.

13. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, dipping said tray in a bath of hot water at a temperature of approximately 89 degrees Celsius, and then dipping said tray in a bath of water at tap water temperature, 5 to 10 degrees Celsius.

14. (Once Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, and alternatively cascading water onto the tray to heat and cool the tray.

Add new claims 20 through 25 as follows:

20. (New) The tree seedling plug of claim 3 wherein said second growing medium comprises a network of thermal-sensitive fibre.

21. (New) The tree seedling plug of claim 20 wherein said second growing medium comprises a loose growing soil mixture consisting of approximately 95% by weight coconut coir fibre, and 5% by weight of thermal-sensitive fibre.

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- As amended*
22. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said first growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, dipping said tray in a bath of hot water at a temperature of approximately 89 degrees Celsius, and then dipping said tray in a bath of water at tap water temperature, 5 to 10 degrees Celsius.
23. (New) The method of claim 8 wherein said first growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, and alternatively cascading water onto the tray to heat and cool the tray.
24. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said first growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, dipping said tray in a bath of hot water at a temperature of approximately 89 degrees Celsius, and then dipping said tray in a bath of water at tap water temperature, 5 to 10 degrees Celsius.
25. (New) The method of claim 9 wherein said first growing medium comprising a network of thermal-sensitive fibre is formed by filling a tray of hollow cells with said growing medium, and alternatively cascading water onto the tray to heat and cool the tray.

REMARKS

In her Office Action mailed 01/15/2002, the Examiner objected to Figures 1 and 2 of the drawings. A proposed drawing correction has been provided. Two informalities in the disclosure were noted and these have been corrected. Informalities in claims 2, 4, 7, 13 and 14 were also noted and these have been corrected. Claims 8-19 were objected to under 35 U.S.C. s. 112, second paragraph. Claims 15-19 have been cancelled and claims 8 and 9 have been amended to address this objection. Claims 13 and 14 now depend from claim 6 and consequently there is proper antecedent basis for "said growing medium".

The Examiner further rejected claims 1 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. s. 102(b) as anticipated by Van der Knaap B.V. Fibre Neth which "inherently includes a tree seedling with roots". Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested. In order to antici-